

REMARKS

The Official Action dated 02 July 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and relevant decisional law.

Claims 17 and 18 are objected to because of several informalities: on line 1 in both claims, "fur" should be changed to --further--.

In response, claims 17 and 18 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parks et al. (6,530,303 B1) in view of Tagliaferri (5,159,869).

However, the Examiner has kindly indicated that claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 7 which is indicated to be allowable has been deleted, and has been included into claim 1.

Claims 2-4 and 6 to which claim 7 is dependent thereon have also been deleted and have also been included into claim 1.

Claims 5, 9, 10 have been amended to be dependent on the amended claim 1.

Claim 8 which is indicated to be allowable has been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 11, 12 are dependent on claim 10.

Claims 13, 14 and 17-18 are dependent on the amended claim
1.

Claim 15 is dependent on claim 14.

Claim 16 is dependent on claim 15.

Accordingly, claims 1, 5 and 8-18 would appear to be allowable, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is accordingly most respectfully solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner NGUYEN are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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